

ISM-128

LABORATORY PERSONNEL

APRIL 2003

WORKING ALONE

"Working alone" has been defined, for safety considerations, as "the performance of any work by an individual who is out of audio or visual range of another for more than a few minutes at a time and no other person is aware the individual is working alone, the nature of the work he is doing or the period of time the individual expects to work" (Handbook of Laboratory Safety, 2nd Edition, CRC press, 1980).

An individual should never work in circumstances where emergency aid is not readily available. The availability of emergency aid, the degree of training and type of emergency aid, and the means of summoning help depend on the nature of the potential hazard and the degree of exposure to the hazard.

Experiments known to be hazardous should not be undertaken by a worker who is alone in a laboratory. Under normal working conditions, arrangements should be made between individuals working in the laboratory outside of normal working hours to crosscheck periodically. Alternatively, Protective Services may be asked to check on the laboratory worker. Prior to working alone, telephone x1091 to have a Security Officer stop by or telephone periodically. He/she will be glad to do so.

For additional information, call EHS at x1451 or Protective Services at x1091.